his other works, nor indeed are they always correct,—a charge which however lies at the door of almost every observer of hymenomycetous fungi at that time. The principal feature of the work however is the beauty and faithfulness of the larger figures, the analyses being a very subordinate part; and whatever reproach may be thrown on this part of the work, it is but justice to assert that no mycologist has published more faithful analyses of fungi than M. Corda. For proof we appeal not only to the uniformly increasing merit of his 'Fasciculi,' each surpassing the other in importance and skill of execution, but to ocular evidence afforded by a comparison of many of his most curious genera, such as *Dictyosporium, Helicostylum, Cladotrichum*, &c., under the microscope with the published figures, and we have not been struck more by the curious forms and structures which presented themselves than by the great accuracy of the figures. It has fallen to the lot of few to discover more novelties, and these as beautiful as singular, than to M. Corda; indeed so curious are many of them, that occasionally he has met with the fate of original thinkers and fortunate observers, and his discoveries instead of exciting admiration have been met with doubt. It was therefore with great pleasure that we received a packet of specimens, in many cases portions of the very individual figured, which have enabled us at once to do justice to the author, and to refer to the 'Fasciculi' as a repertorium of facts; and we are in some measure the more pleased to be able to do so, since we do not always agree with his views either as to genera or species, and we regard the work rather as that of an original observer than of a profound critic. We are rejoiced too to find that his labours in the study of antediluvian phytology, which will soon be given to the public, and will present the most magnificent analyses which have hitherto been published, have not drawn him off entirely from mycology, but that he has a sixth fasciculus in hand, and is preparing a new edition of his 'Introduction to Mycology,' a work which should be in the hands of every botanist. It remains only that we say of the work which has given occasion for these remarks, that though the figures are too much crowded, which takes off greatly from the general effect, and the form itself of the book, oblong folio, not accordant with English taste, some of the plates, when confined to a single species, may be compared without risk to the beautiful plates of Vittadini and Viviani, and that in most cases the figures individually are all that can be wished. As the plates are lithographed, and if, as it is probable, a few copies only were taken off, in a short time it will not be possible to procure the work from the publisher.

Histoire physique, politique et naturelle de l'Ile de Cuba. Par M. Ramon de la Sagra.

Botanique: Plantes Cellulaires. Par Camille Montagne, D.M. Paris, 1838–1842.

The distinguishing feature of this work from others of a similar description which have emanated from the study of the French *savans*, consists in the extraordinary ability and patience with which the

general introductory remarks to each order have been prepared. We have already given a translation of those on the order Fungi, from which our readers may judge of the information to be derived from them: nor has the excellence of this particular portion been appreciated only in England, for it has been translated into German and Italian, and a Spanish version is now in the course of publication; indeed it may be pronounced almost a complete repertorium of mycological facts, and these put forth with a clearness and precision which is very rare. Nor will those who are more especially interested in other portions of cryptogamic botany find less to interest and instruct.

The class Algæ is taken in a very wide sense, as including the three families of *Phyceæ, Byssaceæ*, and *Lichenes*; and the author's reasons for this distribution, which accord with those of Fries, are detailed in a manner which cannot fail to be attractive. The considerations on *Byssaceæ*, a very difficult and anomalous tribe of plants, though short, are especially worth attention, and the illustrations of the genera *Collema* and *Leptogium*, which accompany them, are more complete than any that have hitherto appeared, and show such a difference of structure between these genera and Lichens, which to the external eye they so closely resemble, as would surprise any one who has not paid a close attention to the composition of the thallus in these curious productions. In fact, in these plants the cortical and medullary strata are confused, and the gonidia, which in Lichens are confined to the cortical stratum, are in consequence dispersed through the gelatinous mass: thus they hold a place exactly intermediate between *Phyceæ* and Lichens. It is probable indeed that some plants usually referred to *Byssaceæ*, as *Thamnomyces*, are in reality Fungi, and we are inclined to think that *Dichonema* is in the same predicament: in this genus, as in *Cora*, the reproductive bodies will, we venture to predict, be found seated upon sporophores. *Cœnogonium* again is so completely a *Biatora* with a filamentous thallus, that we cannot help thinking that mature consideration will remove it from *Byssaceæ*, an unfortunate and inexpressive name; and thus the class will form a natural division, consisting of such genera as *Collema, Leptogium* and *Lichina*.

As regards the general execution of the work, the number of new and interesting species described, the beauty and correctness of the plates, the fullness of the analysis, and the ability and tact displayed, we cannot speak too highly. We know not that any work on natural history can be pointed out which can at all compete with it; and though the number of new species is considerable, the author has exercised the greatest caution in proposing them as new, and not till after a complete examination of all available information, and the submission of specimens before publication to those whom he considered as most competent to give information. Since the publication of the work, a comparison which we have been enabled to make with authentic specimens of Swartz in the Herbarium of the British Museum has enabled us to make two corrections, which the excellent author will be the very first to appreciate. His *Polyporus*

Valenzuelianus proves to be identical with Swartz's *Bol. resupinatus*, —a fact which never could have been discovered without original specimens, the very name alone being quite enough to prevent the origin of any such suspicion; and *Pol. Auberianus* with *Bol. microporus*, Swartz, which seems to be a species universally distributed in the West Indies, and of which we possess a beautiful specimen from Jamaica.

Many of the species have been already characterized in the 'Annales des Sciences Naturelles,' but as it is useful to have a list of species to avoid identity of names, we shall subjoin a catalogue of those that have first appeared on the publication of the volume.

This is the first attempt to illustrate the cellular plants of Cuba; but even the higher plants of this island are at present but imperfectly known, and we hope that it may lead to similar illustrations of the other more important isles, abounding as they all do in the most varied and curious forms. No expense has been spared in the present instance to do justice to the subject, and the science of Dr. Montagne has been well seconded by the pencil of Alfred Riocreux, a young artist of the greatest promise. The analyses are all from the practised pencil of the author himself.

It remains only that we give a list of the species here first characterized, while we congratulate the author on the happy termination of his labours, and the additional frond which it contributes to the wreath which he wears so modestly amongst cryptogamists:—

PHYCEÆ.

Biddulphia australis.
Bryopsis ramulosa.
Caulerpa fastigiata.
Bostrychia, n. g., founded on
Rhodomela calamistrata, *Mont.*
Sphærococcus corallopsis.
Ectocarpus minutulus.

LICHENES.

Strigula nitidula.
——— rotula.
Pertusaria entophlœa.
Thelotrema Auberianum.
Thelotrema olivaceum.
Opegrapha filicina.
Biatora pusilla.
Parmelia Valenzueliana.

MUSCINÆ.

Jungermannia Rhizantha.
Phragmicoma Sagræana.
Lejeunia phyllobola, *Nees & Mont.*
——— myriocarpa, *Nees & Mont.*
——— radicosa, *Nees in litt.*
——— cardiocarpa.
Lejeunia serrulata.
——— cubensis.
——— Auberiana.
Fimbriaria cubanensis, *Lehm.*
Hypnum Liliputianum.

PROCEEDINGS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES.

LINNÆAN SOCIETY.

June 4, 1844.—The Lord Bishop of Norwich, President, in the Chair.

Read a continuation of Mr. Griffith's memoir, being the portion relating to *Sarcophyte*.